MARVEL COMICS

THE COSMIC AVENGER!

QUASAR

THERE'S NO ESCAPE FROM THE NEW UNIVERSE™

GUEST-STARRING D.P.7™

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30TH ANNIVERSARY 1962-1992

THE INCREDIBLE HULK

WENDELL VAUGHN. . . THE FIRST EARTH MAN EVER APPOINTED PROTECTOR OF THE UNIVERSE. BONDED TO THE ENERGY-TRANSFORMING QUANTUM-BANDS THAT ARE BOTH WEAPONS AND SYMBOLS OF HIS STATION, HE FIGHTS AN ONGOING BATTLE TO DEFEND ALL LIFE IN THE UNIVERSE FROM COSMIC EVIL!

Stan Lee presents

QUASAR

THE MOON...

I THOUGHT I HAD KILLED YOU, SPECK!

MARK GRUENWALD STORY

GREG CAPULLO PENCILS

HARRY CANDELARIO INKS

JANICE CHIANG LETTERS

PAUL BECTON COLORS

KELLY CORVESE EDITOR

TOM DeFALCO KICKER IN CHIEF

BEHOLD THE MAN CALLED *QUASAR*. ON A MISSION TO APPREHEND SEVEN RENEGADE DIMENSIONAL COUNTERPARTS OF THE CRIMINAL KNOWN AS THE *LIVING LASER*. HE ENTERED THE ALTERNATE REALITY YOU SEE HERE--

--AND ENCOUNTERED A DIMENSIONAL *COUNTERPART* OF HIS GREATEST AND MOST POWERFUL ENEMY, *MAELSTROM*. THOUGH LOCKED IN BATTLE WITH AN EQUALLY FORMIDABLE *THANOS*, MAELSTROM BECAME *AWARE* OF QUASAR'S ANOMALOUS PRESENCE--

--AND SENT A BURST OF *INCOMPREHENSIBLE FORCE* AT HIM.

I HAVE *WATCHED* THIS SCENE TIME AND *TIME AGAIN*. I HAVE SCANNED ALL OF THE *ADJACENT* REALITIES. THE *CONCLUSION* IS *INESCAPABLE*.

THE BLAST HIT QUASAR AND HE HAS *CEASED TO BE*.

brave new universe

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THAT *CANNOT* BE! LOOK *AGAIN*, YOU IDIOTIC ALIEN!

I DO NOT APPRECIATE YOUR *TONE*, EARTH WOMAN. IT IS A RARE PRIVILEGE I AM *ALREADY* EXTENDING TO YOU, ALLOWING YOU IN MY ABODE, ANSWERING YOUR QUESTIONS.

I ONLY DO SO OUT OF *DEFERENCE* TO OUR MUTUAL CONCERN FOR THE YOUNG *COSMIC CHAMPION*.

THERE MUST BE *SOMETHING* WE CAN DO! LET *ME* GO THROUGH YOUR PORTAL, *WATCHER*-- LET ME *SEARCH* FOR HIM!

THAT WOULD ACCOMPLISH NOTHING SAVE RISKING YOUR OWN *ANNIHILATION*, HER. MY INSTRUMENTS ARE *NOT* IN ERROR. QUASAR IS *NOT THERE*--HE IS *NOWHERE* IN THE ENTIRE *MULTIVERSE OF DIMENSIONS*!

YOU'RE SAYING HE'S *DEAD*?

I CANNOT BE *CERTAIN*. I ONLY KNOW HE IS SOMEWHERE *BEYOND* THE MULTIVERSE OF DIMENSIONS INTO WHICH I CAN *PEER*.

WHAT'S *BEYOND* THE MULTIVERSE THEN?

SOME HAVE SPECULATED THAT BEYOND THE MULTIVERSE EXISTS AN *OMNIVERSE*, A CONTINUUM OF MULTIVERSES. IT HAS NEVER BEEN *PROVEN*.

I SEE...WELL, I AM SIMPLY GOING TO *REMAIN* HERE UNTIL HE IS *FOUND*!

SUIT YOURSELF. BUT I MUST *WARN* YOU, BY HUMAN STANDARDS, I AM AN EXTREMELY *POOR HOST*.

HE'S LEFT ME HERE BY HIS PORTAL *UNGUARDED!*

THOUGH HE CAN *TRY* TO TELL ME WHAT I CAN AND CANNOT DO, THANKS TO HIS OATH OF NON-INTERFERENCE, HE CANNOT *PREVENT* ME.

I AM *WATCHING.*

FURTHER, I HAVE PROGRAMMED MY SCREEN TO *SHUT DOWN* THE MOMENT ANY *MATTER* ENTERS THE REALITY THRESHOLD FROM THIS SIDE.

IT WOULD BEHOOVE YOU TO *NOT* LET THE MACHINE SHUT DOWN. IT NEEDS TO BE ON SHOULD QUASAR TRY TO USE IT.

...GOOD POINT.

;SIGH;

THIS UNIVERSE CANNOT BE *DEPRIVED* OF ITS PROTECTOR THIS WAY--!

NOR CAN *I* BE DEPRIVED OF THE MOST *PERFECT MAN* I'VE EVER ENCOUNTERED!

QUASAR, I REFUSE TO BELIEVE YOU ARE *DEAD!* I *REFUSE* TO! YOU MUST BE *SOMEWHERE* IN THE *OMNIVERSE!* PLEASE... FIND YOUR WAY *BACK...!*

ELSEWHERE...

YOU'RE GOING TO TELL ME WHERE YOU *GOT* THIS WEAPON, *LOUIE-LOUIE*... YOU KNOW *WHY*?

'C-CAUSE OTHERWISE YER GONNA *HURT* ME?

NO, BECAUSE IT'S YOUR *CIVIC DUTY* TO TELL ME. THE WORLD'S BEEN DOING *FINE* FOR SEVERAL YEARS NOW WITH ALL OF ITS MECHANICAL WEAPONRY *SLAGGED*...

...NOW ALL OF A SUDDEN SOMEONE'S FOUND A WAY TO *MANUFACTURE* THE STUFF AGAIN. I WANT TO KNOW *WHO* AND *HOW*.

B-BELIEVE ME, MAN-- I...I *FOUND* IT!

LOUIE-LOUIE, *LYING* IS A--

!

MY GOD!

WHAT?

SOMETHING BRIGHT ENOUGH TO BURN THROUGH THE *EASTERN HAZE*--?!?

I'LL BE *BACK*, LOU-LOU!

HEY, *CAAAAAAP'N*--!

THAT LOOK TO *YOU* LIKE WHAT IT LOOKS LIKE TO *ME*, CAPTAIN?

A *METEORITE*?

BINGO.

CAN YOU DO ANYTHING TO STOP IT FROM *HITTING*?

I DON'T *KNOW*, BUT I'M SURE GOING TO *TRY*! PROTECTING MANHATTAN-- IT'S MY *JOB*!

HOLD ME *UP*, *ANTIBODY*-- I'M GOING TO NEED EVERY OUNCE OF ENERGY TO *STOP* THAT THING.

WHAT'S THE BIGGEST *FORCE-SCREEN* YOU EVER MADE?

I DON'T REMEMBER. NOW PLEASE *DON'T TALK*, I--

ONLY HOPE IS TO *PRAY*...!

GETTING CLOSER. A *METEORITE*, ALL RIGHT...!

I'VE NEVER DONE *ANYTHING* LIKE THIS. NOT SURE IF MY FORCE CAN *WITHSTAND* ANYTHING TRAVELING AT *TERMINAL VELOCITY*!

SORRY.

O HEAVENLY FATHER--

ZRASH

IT *BROKE THROUGH!* AND THE STRAIN ON *CAPTAIN MANHATTAN* MADE HIM *FAINT!*

GOT TO SEE WHERE IT *IMPACTED!* ABOUT *TWENTY BLOCKS* FROM HERE, I FIGURE!

SPSSH

I... FAILED.

CAPTAIN-- YOU'RE *AWAKE!*

SURE, FOR ALL THE GOOD I DID THE CITY.

"DON'T *BERATE* YOURSELF, CAPTAIN. YOU DID YOUR *BEST* AND YOU KNOW IT. I DIDN'T SEE ANY OF THE *REST* OF NEW YORK'S PARANORMALS DO ANYTHING.

"I SUPPOSE."

"AS IF THE PEOPLE LEFT IN THIS BURG NEED *MORE* REASONS TO EVACUATE THE LEAST INHABITABLE CITY EAST OF THE PITT, *METEORITES* START DROPPING HERE!"

"BESIDES, NO MATTER *HOW MUCH* DAMAGE IT'S DONE, IT WOULD'VE DONE A LOT *WORSE* IF YOU HADN'T TAKEN THE *WIND* OUT OF ITS *SAILS!*"

"I JUST PRAY NO ONE WAS *UNDERNEATH IT* WHEN IT HIT."

"I JUST HAD A DISTURBING THOUGHT. WHAT IF IT'S *NOT* A METEORITE?"

UH-OH. IS THAT WHAT I *THINK* IT IS, CAPTAIN?

A MAN! IN A COSTUME. *WHO--?*

DON'T GO ANY *CLOSER*--HE'S STILL GIVING OFF *SMOKE!*

MY *SCREEN* WILL PROTECT ME.

SEND ONE OF YOUR *LITTLE FELLOWS* TO THE CLINIC TO FETCH *STEPHANIE*-- QUICK!

YOU *HEARD* HIM, SHEMP-- GO!

HE'S STILL ALIVE-- *BREATHING.*

I'VE NEVER SEEN HIM BEFORE, HAVE *YOU?*

NO.

MAYBE HE'S THE *STARCHILD* WHO ENDED THE WAR A FEW YEARS AGO!

THE NEW MESSIAH OF THE *WHITE EVENTISTS?* I SURE *HOPE NOT.*

IT'S STEPHIE-- *JEFF'S* CARRYING HER!

WHHHHHH

WHAT IN THE WORLD *HAPPENED* HERE?

THIS GUY WAS IN THAT *FIREBALL* THAT HIT TOWN?

THIS GUY *WAS* THE FIREBALL!

HELP ME DOWN-- I'LL SEE WHAT I CAN *DO* FOR HIM.

GLAD YOU TAUGHT ME ALL ABOUT *FIRST AID*, RANDY.

NO POINT HEALING HIS *BROKEN BONES* IF I CAN'T SET THEM *STRAIGHT.*

MULTIPLE LACERATIONS, BROKEN RADIUS, SHOCK... BUT NO EVIDENCE OF INTERNAL DAMAGE.

TALK ABOUT *LUCKY.*

HRSSSHHRRSSHHHR

SHHHR? HRRSSHHSSHRRRR.

HHEE''SS CCOOMMIINNGG TTOO.

BBEETTEERR WWAATTCCHH IITT--

--NO TELLING *WHAT* HE MAY DO.

HELLO.

NGGOHHH... WHAT HAPPENED? WHERE *IS* THIS?

WHO ARE *YOU*?

OR MORE IMPORTANTLY-- *WHO AM I*?

HMMM.

YEAH.

I'M WEN-- UH, *QUASAR*.

I'M *CAPTAIN MANHATTAN*, AND THIS IS THE *BLUR*, *ANTIBODY*, AND *GLITTER*.

NEVER HEARD OF YOU, YOU *MUTANTS*?

NO. *PARANORMALS*.

WAIT--IT'S COMING BACK TO ME NOW--I WAS INVESTIGATING OTHER *DIMENSIONS* FOR THE *WATCHER*, TRYING TO ROUND UP RENEGADE *LIVING LASERS*--!

THEN *MAELSTROM* SENT A BLAST AFTER ME WHILE I WAS IN THE *QUANTUM ZONE* AND I GUESS IT BROUGHT ME *HERE*!

UH, I'M REALLY *SORRY* ABOUT ALL THIS *DAMAGE* I CAUSED--WAS...WAS ANYBODY *HURT*?

NOPE. CHECKED THE WHOLE AREA, NOT A *SINGLE CASUALTY.*

THAT'S AMAZING--THIS *IS* MANHATTAN, ISN'T IT?

NOT THAT REMARKABLE, WITH MANHATTAN'S POPULATION *1/20TH* OF WHAT IT WAS *PRE-PITT.*

"PRE-PITT?" WHAT'S *THAT* MEAN?

YOU DON'T KNOW ABOUT THE *PITT*?!?

I'M NOT *FROM* THIS EARTH. AS I SAID, I'VE BEEN *DIMENSION-TRAVELING.*

DON'T WORRY. I'M A *GOOD GUY.* LET ME HELP YOU REPAIR THE *MESS* I MADE.

WHEW! MY FORCE CAN'T DO ANYTHING LIKE *THAT!*

THE PITT IS ALL THAT'S LEFT OF *PITTSBURGH.*

OH.

LATER...

THAT'S THE *BEST* I CAN DO. IT'S BEEN NICE *MEETING* YOU FOLKS. YOU HAVE MY *SINCEREST APOLOGIES* FOR THE DAMAGE I'VE CAUSED.

NOW I'VE REALLY GOT TO BE *ON* MY WAY!

THERE GOES ONE *POWERFUL* PARANORMAL.

NUTTY AS A *FRUITCAKE*, THINKING HE'S FROM ANOTHER DIMENSION.

YEAH, LIKE THAT *JUSTICE* CHARACTER IN QUEENS USED TO BELIEVE.

I WISH WE COULD HAVE *DRAWN HIM OUT* A BIT MORE. DID YOU NOTICE HOW HE FOCUSED HIS PARANORMAL ENERGIES THROUGH HIS *JEWELRY*?

NO TELLING *HOW LONG* I'VE BEEN GONE.

THAT'S ODD -- I CAN'T DETECT THE LASER'S *ENERGY SIGNATURE* ANYWHERE ON EARTH...

HATED TO BE SO *STANDOFFISH* AND *BRUSQUE* WITH THEM. THEY SEEMED LIKE *NICE PEOPLE.*

BUT THE WATCHER *WARNED* ME AGAINST *INTERACTING* TOO MUCH WITH THE LOCALS.

BETTER GET WHAT I CAME FOR AND HIGHTAIL IT BACK *HOME.*

OF *COURSE* I CAN'T! MAELSTROM'S BLAST MUST HAVE DISPLACED ME FROM THE SEQUENCE OF DIMENSIONS WHERE THERE *ARE* RENEGADE LASERS.

BUT *WAIT*-- WOULDN'T I BE ABLE TO DETECT THE LASER THAT'S *NATIVE* TO THIS REALITY?

HOW *FAR* DID MAELSTROM'S BLAST BLOW ME *ANYWAY*?

WELL, THE ANSWER TO THAT AWAITS ME ON *THE MOON*.

I'LL JUST *QUANTUM-JUMP* AND--

WHAT THE--? *NOTHING HAPPENED!*

WHAT HAPPENED?!?

BOY, THAT FALL MUST'VE *RATTLED* ME MORE THAN I THOUGHT IF I CAN'T REMEMBER EXACTLY HOW TO OPEN A *QUANTUM-PORTAL*.

OR MAYBE--*ULP*--I BUSTED ONE OF THE *Q-GEMS*!

WELL, AT LEAST THERE'S STILL THE OLD *FASHIONED* WAY... FLYING.

SEVERAL HOURS LATER...

WEIRD! FROM SPACE, THIS LOOKED LIKE WHERE THE *BLUE AREA OF THE MOON* IS SITUATED, BUT I DON'T SEE ANY OF THE MANMADE LANDMARKS.

WAIT--WHAT IF IN *THIS* REALITY THE WATCHER HAS HIS HOME AT SOME *OTHER* SITE?

CAN'T SEEM TO DETECT THE WATCHER'S *ENERGY PATTERNS*...

THEN HE'S *NOT ANYWHERE* ON THE MOON AT ALL!

NOW THAT'S *REALLY* WEIRD. IN ALL THE *OTHER* DIMENSIONS I VISITED THAT'S WHERE EARTH'S WATCHER WAS STATIONED--IT'S SUCH AN *OBVIOUS* VANTAGE POINT FROM WHICH TO OBSERVE THE EARTH, AFTER ALL.

LET ME TURN UP THE *GAIN* ON MY BANDS. IF THERE'S A WATCHER WITHIN THE ENTIRE *SOLAR SYSTEM*, I'LL DETECT HIM!

STILL NOTHING.

NO WATCHER?!? THEN... HOW THE HECK AM I SUPPOSED TO GET *HOME* WITHOUT HIS PORTAL TO *TAKE ME THERE*?

LET ME THINK... THERE'S GOT TO BE *SOMETHING*... *SOMEONE* I CAN--

OF COURSE!

LITTLE *EPOCH*, DAUGHTER OF MY MENTOR *EON*.

SHE'S IN CONSTANT INTERFACE WITH MY *Q-BANDS!*

EPOCH...? YOU THERE? EPOCH--?

NO ANSWER.

THIS IS REALLY, *REALLY* BAD.

CUT OFF FROM THE *WATCHER*, *EPOCH*, EVERYONE I KNOW...

WHERE IN THE MULTIVERSE *AM* I?

AND WHAT IS IT *ABOUT* THIS PLACE THAT MAKES IT SO BLASTED *DIFFERENT* FROM ANYWHERE ELSE?

CAN'T *PANIC*... GOTTA KEEP A *CLEAR HEAD*...

THERE'S GOT TO BE A WAY OUT *SOMEHOW*! *DOESN'T* THERE?

ON THE OTHER HAND, MAELSTROM HAD A *LOT* OF ENERGY AND HIT ME IN TRANSIT IN THE *QUANTUM ZONE*--

MAYBE HE'S THROWN ME SO *FAR* OFF THE BEATEN TRACK OF DIMENSIONS, THERE ISN'T ENOUGH POWER AVAILABLE HERE TO GET ME *BACK!*

QUANTUM-BANDS ACTING *SLUGGISHLY*. WHY CAN'T I GET THESE DARN THINGS TO GO ANY *FASTER*?

WAIT... I *KNOW*. BECAUSE I'M CUT OFF FROM THE *QUANTUM ZONE*--THE SOURCE OF MY POWER.

I'M CRUISING ON THE POWER I HAPPENED TO HAVE *IN* MY BANDS AT THE TIME I WAS *BLASTED* HERE. AND WHEN *THAT'S* GONE--?!?

HOURS LATER...

IT'S A LONG SHOT--

--BUT MAYBE THERE'S A DR. STRANGE HERE...?

GRASPING AT NON-EXISTENT STRAWS!

IF I'M GOING TO FIND ANYBODY TO HELP ME--

--IT'S GONNA HAVE TO BE AMONG THE SUPERHUMANS I KNOW LIVE HERE!

CAP MANHATTAN--EMPIRE STATE BLD

AFTER THIS, BETTER CONSERVE ALL THE ENERGY I CAN...

'CAUSE ONCE IT GOES, IT'S GONE.

CAPTAIN, I'M IN A LOT OF TROUBLE. I'M STRANDED IN YOUR DIMENSION AND NONE OF THE PEOPLE I KNOW WHO COULD GET ME OUT SEEM TO HAVE COUNTERPARTS HERE.

QUASAR?

I THOUGHT THAT MIGHT BE YOU.

I...DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO.

COME HOME WITH ME, FRIEND.

PEOPLE, THIS IS *QUASAR*.

QUASAR, THAT'S *JENNIFER* AND *CHARLOTTE* ON THE COUCH BY *RANDY* AND HIS LITTLE ANTIBODIES.

AND THAT'S *CHRIS* ON HIS FLYING HUBCAP... BIG *DAVE*... AND *STEPHANIE* AND *JEFF*, WHOM YOU'VE ALSO MET.

HIYA!

SO YOU'RE THE GUY WHO SAYS HE'S FROM ANOTHER *DIMENSION*, HUH?

NOT JUST SAYS, I AM.

WHERE TO BEGIN?

OKAY. MY REAL NAME'S *WENDELL VAUGHN*. MY POWERS COME FROM THESE FANCY BRACELETS-- THE *QUANTUM-BANDS*-- WHICH TRANSFORM ENERGY FOR AS MANY USES AS I CAN THINK OF.

THEY WERE THE PROPERTY OF THIS ANCIENT ALIEN I CALLED *EON* WHO GIVES THEM TO WHOEVER HE WANTS TO BE THE UNIVERSE'S *PROTECTOR*. YEAH, I *KNOW* HOW PRETENTIOUS *THAT* SOUNDS.

--THAT IS, A DIMENSIONAL *COUNTERPART* OF AN OLD ENEMY OF MINE--AND HE BLASTED ME SO HARD I WOUND UP *HERE*, WHEREVER *HERE* IS.

ANYWAY, I WAS RUNNING AN ERRAND FOR THIS *OTHER* ANCIENT ALIEN--*THE WATCHER*-- WHO SENT ME INTO A BUNCH OF ADJACENT DIMENSIONS, WHEN I RAN INTO AN OLD *ENEMY* OF MINE--

THE WATCHER, HUH? HE'S THE GUY WHO LIVES ON THE *MOON*, HMM?

I KNOW YOU GUYS THINK I'M NUTS, BUT JUST HEAR ME OUT.

YES! HOW DID YOU KNOW?!?

I USED TO *READ* ABOUT HIM AS A KID.

THEN *MARVEL COMICS* WENT OUT OF BUSINESS. RIGHT AFTER THE *PITT* HAPPENED.

SO YOU'RE TELLING US THAT COMIC BOOK CHARACTERS ARE *REAL* WHERE YOU COME FROM, HMM?

YEAH. THOUGH SOME OF US HAD OUR OWN *COMICS* THERE, TOO.

:SIGH:

COFFEE?

YEAH. THANKS.

SO HOW 'BOUT *YOU PEOPLE?* WHERE'D *YOUR* POWERS COME FROM?

BACK IN 1986, THERE WAS THIS WEIRD *FLASH OF LIGHT* IN THE SKY. AFTER THAT, FOLKS BEGAN DEVELOPING *PARANORMAL ABILITIES.*

MOST PEOPLE FIGURE THE *WHITE EVENT* WAS SOMEHOW RESPONSIBLE.

WHAT *CAUSED* IT?

NOBODY KNOWS. SOME SAY IT WAS AN *ACT OF GOD*-- THE WHITE EVENTISTS ARE THE MAJOR RELIGIOUS MOVEMENT THESE DAYS.

OTHERS SAY IT WAS THIS PARANORMAL CALLED *STARBRAND*. HE'S PRETTY POWERFUL--HE SINGLEHANDEDLY STOPPED *WORLD WAR III* A COUPLE YEARS BACK.

WOW. HOW'D HE DO *THAT?*

NEUTRALIZED ALL THE *WEAPONS* ON EARTH. COOL, HUH?

I COULDN'T DO THAT.

THEN WE CAN RULE OUT THE POSSIBILITY THAT *YOU'RE* STARBRAND?

ME? I TOLD YOU I--OH, I GET IT. STILL NONE OF YOU BELIEVE I'M FROM *ANOTHER WORLD.*

I GUESS NOBODY YOU KNOW HAS *DIMENSION TRAVELING* AS THEIR PARANORMAL POWER, HUH?

WELL, TELL ME MORE ABOUT THIS *STARBRAND*. SOUNDS LIKE HE'S THE MOST *POWERFUL PERSON* YOUR WORLD'S GOT.

NO ONE KNOWS FOR SURE IF HE STILL *EXISTS*, OR *EVER* DID, FOR THAT MATTER.

SOME BELIEVE HIM TO BE A *HOAX*... THAT IT WAS A WHOLE *GROUP* OF PARANORMALS WHO POOLED THEIR PARABILITIES TO STOP THE WAR.

HE'S *GOT* TO EXIST AND *I'VE* GOT TO FIND HIM!

AND HOW DO YOU PROPOSE TO DO *THAT*, MR. OTHER DIMENSION?

WITH LUCK BY MY *QUANTUM-BANDS*.

FIRST I'LL TAKE A READING OF *YOU PEOPLE*--

--SO I KNOW WHAT *PARANORMAL ENERGY* READS LIKE--

--THEN I'LL GO AND TRY TO FIND THE *BIGGEST SOURCE* OF THAT ENERGY I CAN.

OKAY. GOT IT.

WELL, PEOPLE. THANKS FOR THE *HOSPITALITY*.

IF MY PLAN WORKS, YOU'LL NEVER *SEE* ME AGAIN.

IF NOT, WELL...

THIS HAS *GOT* TO WORK!

IT'S *MY LAST CHANCE*!

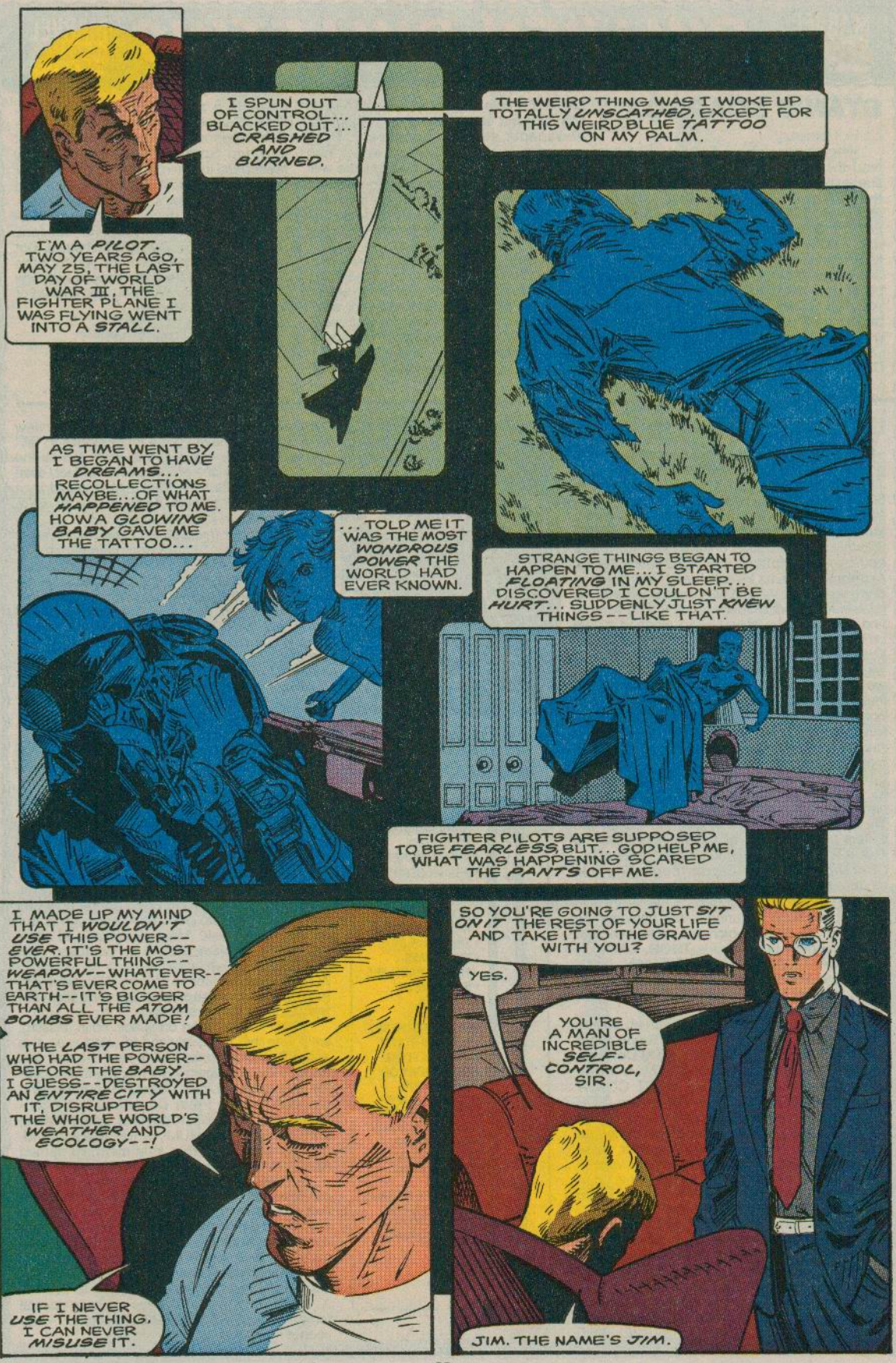
I WANT TO GO *HOME*--TO MY *FRIENDS* AND *FAMILY*!

COME *ON*, STARBRAND. IF YOU'RE OUT THERE, *LET ME KNOW*!

I'M BLOWING A LOT OF *ENERGY* ON THIS STUNT!

I... I THINK... YES! I FEEL SOMETHING!
A THOUSAND... MAYBE 1500 MILES FROM HERE!
HOPE I'VE GOT ENOUGH JUICE TO MAKE IT THERE!
!
BETTER TAKE IT NICE AND EASY, TRY TO USE THE JET STREAM AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE!
SEVERAL HOURS LATER...
AN AIR FORCE BASE! I THINK THIS IS NEW MEXICO.
A HOUSING TRACT NEAR THE BASE. I'M CLOSE... REALLY CLOSE.
BETTER WASTE A LITTLE MORE ENERGY AND SWITCH TO MY CIVILIAN GARB.
THE LAST THING I WANT TO DO IS FREAK OUT THE MOST POWERFUL GUY ON THE PLANET.
UHH!
BRRRT
WHO IS IT?
THIS MAN IS IT!
EXCUSE ME, SIR. YOU DON'T KNOW ME, BUT I'M IN GREAT NEED OF YOUR HELP MAY I COME IN?
NO.
LOOK, I KNOW THIS SOUNDS WEIRD, BUT I KNOW ABOUT YOUR POWER AND--
OOLP!

WHAT POWER?
THE STARBRAND.
RELAX! IF YOU'RE TRYING TO KEEP IT A SECRET AND ALL, YOUR SECRET IS SAFE WITH ME, I'M NOT FROM AROUND HERE. I'M FROM ANOTHER WORLD, IN FACT-- ANOTHER DIMENSION. AND ALL I WANT TO DO IS GO BACK THERE.
THAT'S WHERE YOU AND YOUR POWER COME IN... SIR.
I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT. I HAVE NO... POWER.
WHAT MAKES YOU THINK I HAVE POWER?
I CAN FEEL IT.
THAT IS, MY QUANTUM-BANDS CAN.
HERE. LOOK.
I'VE GOT INCREDIBLE POWER MYSELF, THANKS TO THESE THINGS.
ONLY IT'S NOT ENOUGH POWER TO GET ME BACK HOME.
THEY FEEL WARM... ALMOST ALIVE WITH ENERGY.
YEAH. THEY WERE GIFTS FROM AN ALIEN. SO HOW'D YOU GET YOUR STARBRAND?
SIGH
I THINK... HE'S ABOUT TO OPEN UP TO ME...!


I'M A PILOT. TWO YEARS AGO, MAY 25, THE LAST DAY OF WORLD WAR III, THE FIGHTER PLANE I WAS FLYING WENT INTO A STALL.
I SPUN OUT OF CONTROL... BLACKED OUT... CRASHED AND BURNED.
THE WEIRD THING WAS I WOKE UP TOTALLY UNSCATHED, EXCEPT FOR THIS WEIRD BLUE TATTOO ON MY PALM.
AS TIME WENT BY, I BEGAN TO HAVE DREAMS... RECOLLECTIONS MAYBE...OF WHAT HAPPENED TO ME. HOW A GLOWING BABY GAVE ME THE TATTOO...
...TOLD ME IT WAS THE MOST WONDROUS POWER THE WORLD HAD EVER KNOWN.
STRANGE THINGS BEGAN TO HAPPEN TO ME... I STARTED FLOATING IN MY SLEEP... DISCOVERED I COULDN'T BE HURT... SUDDENLY JUST KNEW THINGS -- LIKE THAT.
FIGHTER PILOTS ARE SUPPOSED TO BE FEARLESS, BUT...GOD HELP ME, WHAT WAS HAPPENING SCARED THE PANTS OFF ME.
I MADE UP MY MIND THAT I WOULDN'T USE THIS POWER -- EVER. IT'S THE MOST POWERFUL THING -- WEAPON -- WHATEVER -- THAT'S EVER COME TO EARTH -- IT'S BIGGER THAN ALL THE ATOM BOMBS EVER MADE!
THE LAST PERSON WHO HAD THE POWER -- BEFORE THE BABY, I GUESS -- DESTROYED AN ENTIRE CITY WITH IT, DISRUPTED THE WHOLE WORLD'S WEATHER AND ECOLOGY --!
IF I NEVER USE THE THING, I CAN NEVER MISUSE IT.
SO YOU'RE GOING TO JUST SIT ON IT THE REST OF YOUR LIFE AND TAKE IT TO THE GRAVE WITH YOU?
YES.
YOU'RE A MAN OF INCREDIBLE SELF-CONTROL, SIR.
JIM. THE NAME'S JIM.

WHAT A QUANDARY. I'M IN. CERTAINLY A MAN SHOULD HAVE THE RIGHT TO CHOOSE HOW HE WISHES TO EXERCISE HIS OWN POWER. EVEN IF HIS CHOICE IS TO NOT EXERCISE IT.
IT WOULD BE TOTALLY SELFISH OF ME TO ASK HIM TO GO AGAINST HIS OWN CONVICTIONS.
SO WHAT DO I DO?
I'VE GOT IT.
YOU DON'T WANT THIS POWER, DO YOU?
THEN I HAVE THE PERFECT SOLUTION. FOR YOU. GIVE IT TO ME.
DOES IT SOUND LIKE I DO?
IT SOUNDS LIKE IT'S TRANSFERABLE
HA!
HOW DO I KNOW YOU'RE WORTHY TO CARRY THIS RESPONSIBILITY? HOW DO I KNOW YOU WON'T DISINTEGRATE ANOTHER CITY? MAYBE A WHOLE COUNTRY?
WE'LL TALK.
YOU'LL ASK ME QUESTIONS, I'LL GIVE YOU ANSWERS. WE'LL TALK AS LONG AS IT TAKES. WE'LL TALK TILL YOU KNOW ME BETTER THAN ANYBODY ELSE IN THE WHOLE WIDE WORLD.
WE'LL TALK TILL I CONVINCE YOU I WON'T USE THE BRAND IRRESPONSIBLY. THEN YOU'LL GIVE IT TO ME. AND I'LL WALK OUT OF YOUR LIFE FOREVER.
SO WHAT DO YOU SAY?
LET ME MAKE SOME COFFEE.
SEVENTEEN HOURS LATER..
OKAY, WENNY, ENOUGH'S ENOUGH. I KNOW MORE ABOUT YOU THAN I KNOW ABOUT MY OWN MOTHER.
I KNOW YOU, I LIKE YOU, I TRUST YOU.
NOW TAKE THIS STUPID TATTOO AND GO BACK TO THE UNIVERSE YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO PROTECT AND LET ME GO TO BED!
YOU'RE SURE NOW? I STILL HAVE SOME MORE ADVENTURES I HAVEN'T TOLD YOU...
GIVE ME YOUR HAND, YOU KNUCKLEHEAD.
THE STARBRAND.

IT'S REALLY BEEN GREAT GETTING TO *KNOW YOU*, JIM. WISH WE COULD DO IT *AGAIN* SOME TIME.

HOPE YOU MAKE IT BACK.

SO DO *I*!

I'M FREE!

OKAY. *STEP ONE* ACCOMPLISHED.

WEIRD--I THINK I'M FLYING UNDER THE *STARBRAND POWER* AND NOT MY QUANTUM-BANDS--!

OKAY, LET'S OPEN 'ER UP AND PUT SOME *DISTANCE* BETWEEN ME AND THE EARTH BELOW--

I WANT TO MAKE SURE I'M FAR ENOUGH AWAY THAT WHEN I USE THE BRAND TO TRY TO *WARP OUT* OF THIS SPACE--

--I DON'T ACCIDENTALLY CAUSE ANOTHER *WHITE EVENT*.

WHOAAAA! THAT STARBRAND POWER IS *STRONG STUFF*-- EITHER I NODDED OFF FOR A BIT OR I JUST ACCELERATED *MILLIONS OF MILES* IN A *FEW MINUTES!*

NOW FOR THE *MOMENT OF TRUTH*--LET'S SEE IF I CAN USE THE *STARBRAND POWER* IN CONJUNCTION WITH MY *QUANTUM-BANDS* TO QUANTUM JUMP *OUT OF HERE!*

THERE'S NO PLACE LIKE HOME, THERE'S NO PLACE LIKE...

FWOOM

HUH? I'M--

I'M ON EARTH.

IN A SWAMP.

HEY-- THAT'S--

--THE MAN-THING!

I RECOGNIZE THAT WALKING COMPOST HEAP! EVEN IF IT'S NOT THE MANNY I KNOW, AT LEAST IT'S IN THE RIGHT MULTI-VERSE!

YES! I FEEL MY QUANTUM-BANDS ENERGIZING AGAIN!

MWAAAAH! IT'S GOOD TO SEE YOU!

THERE'S SUPPOSED TO BE SOME KIND OF NEXUS OF REALITIES IN THIS FLORIDA SWAMP. THAT MUST BE WHY I WOUND UP HERE!

NEXT STOP: NEW YORK!

SO FAR SO GOOD. THERE'S FOUR FREEDOMS PLAZA!

NOW IF I HAVE AN OFFICE ON THE TWELFTH FLOOR, AND THERE'S NOT ANOTHER ME SITTING IN IT--!

KAYLA! KEN!

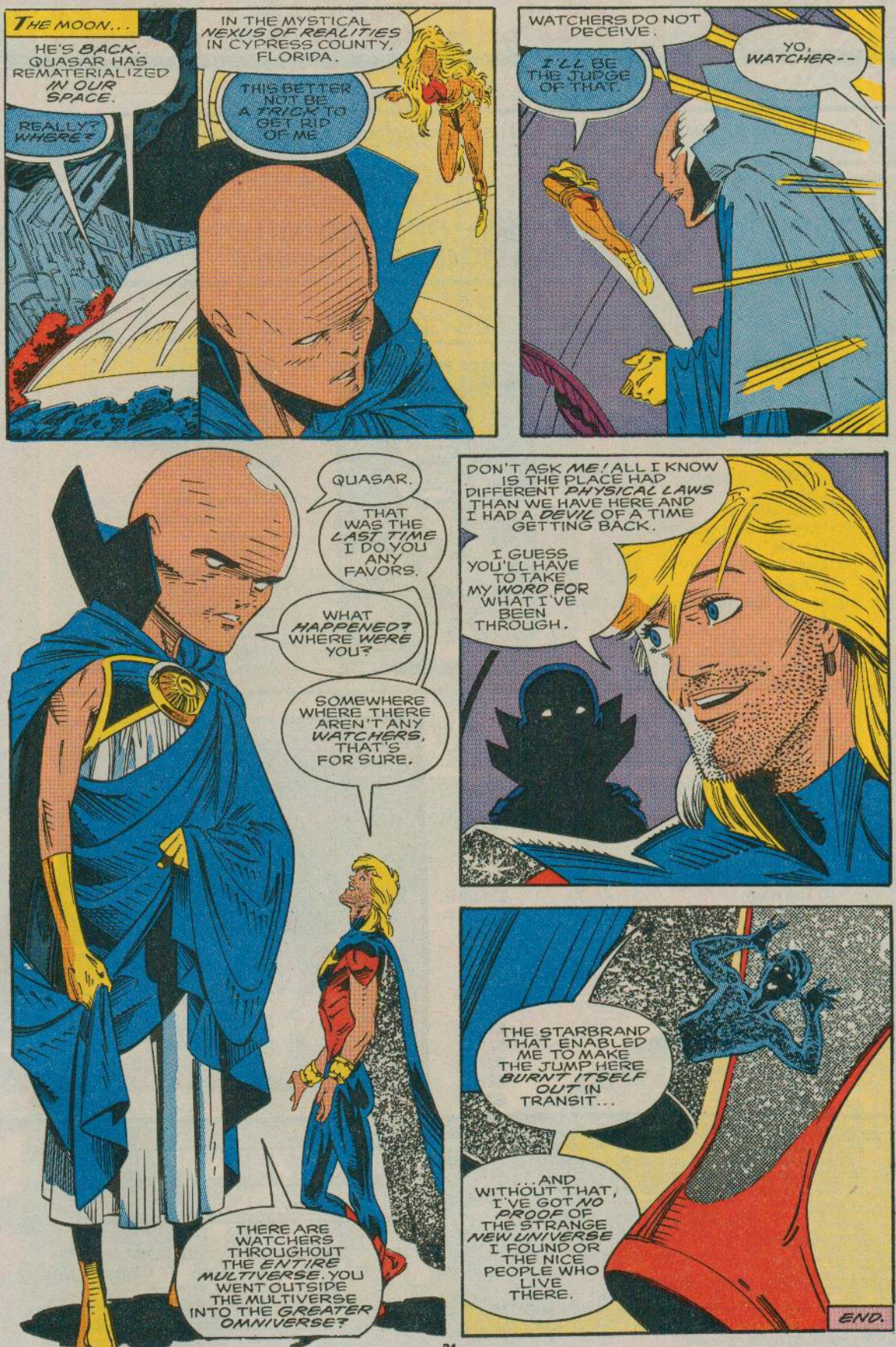
MR. VAUGHN!

I THOUGHT YOU WEREN'T GOING TO COME IN THROUGH THE WINDOW--

I'M BACK! YEE-HAA, I'M BACK!

FROM WHERE?

YOU KIND OF SMELL LIKE A SEWER, BOSS!


THE MOON...
HE'S BACK. QUASAR HAS REMATERIALIZED IN OUR SPACE.
REALLY? WHERE?
IN THE MYSTICAL NEXUS OF REALITIES IN CYPRESS COUNTY, FLORIDA.
THIS BETTER NOT BE A TRICK TO GET RID OF ME.
WATCHERS DO NOT DECEIVE.
I'LL BE THE JUDGE OF THAT.
YO, WATCHER--
QUASAR.
THAT WAS THE LAST TIME I DO YOU ANY FAVORS.
WHAT HAPPENED? WHERE WERE YOU?
SOMEWHERE WHERE THERE AREN'T ANY WATCHERS, THAT'S FOR SURE.
DON'T ASK ME! ALL I KNOW IS THE PLACE HAD DIFFERENT PHYSICAL LAWS THAN WE HAVE HERE AND I HAD A DEVIL OF A TIME GETTING BACK.
I GUESS YOU'LL HAVE TO TAKE MY WORD FOR WHAT I'VE BEEN THROUGH.
THERE ARE WATCHERS THROUGHOUT THE ENTIRE MULTIVERSE. YOU WENT OUTSIDE THE MULTIVERSE INTO THE GREATER OMNIVERSE?
THE STARBRAND THAT ENABLED ME TO MAKE THE JUMP HERE BURNT ITSELF OUT IN TRANSIT...
...AND WITHOUT THAT, I'VE GOT NO PROOF OF THE STRANGE NEW UNIVERSE I FOUND OR THE NICE PEOPLE WHO LIVE THERE.
END.